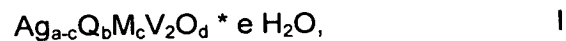


Abstract

A multimetal oxide of the formula I,

5



where a is from 0.3 to 1.9, Q is an element selected from among P, As, Sb and/or Bi, is
 from 0 to 0.3, M is a metal selected from among Nb, Ce, W, Mn, Ta, Pd, Pt, Ru and/or
 10 Rh, c is from 0.001 to 0.5, with the proviso that $(a-c) \geq 0.1$, d is a number which is
 determined by the valence and abundance of the elements other than oxygen in the
 formula I and e is from 0 to 20, and also precatalysts and catalysts produced therefrom
 for the partial oxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons are described.